

***Iwatsukiella leucotricha* (Mitt.) Buck & Crum**

Status: State Endangered

Rank: G3S1

General Description: *Iwatsukiella leucotricha* is an irregularly branched, green to yellowish-green, creeping moss that forms thin mats, or may be woven in with other bryophytes. Stem leaves are 0.7-1.0 x 0.3-0.4 mm, concave, suborbicular with a long, clear, often recurved hairpoint on the apex. A costa is lacking, or short and double. Alar cells are scarcely differentiated. Branch leaves are similar to the stem leaves but are smaller. Foliose pseudoparaphyllia occur on the stems at the base of the leaves. Currently in North America sporophytes have only been found on collections from Chisik Island on the Alaskan Peninsula (Schofield 2002).

Identification Tips: This species could be confused with *Ulota megalospora* and *Pseudoleskea stenophylla*, two species that occur in similar habitats. The long clear recurved hairpoint, lack of or short and double costa, and foliose pseudoparaphyllia are helpful in distinguishing this species from *U. megalospora* and *P. stenophylla* both of which have a costa and do not have pseudoparaphyllia.

Range: Globally this species occurs in Japan and adjacent eastern Asia. In the Pacific Northwest it is known from the coastal areas of Alaska, British Columbia, and Oregon. Recently it has been found in Grays Harbor, Jefferson and Pacific counties in Washington.

Habitat: *Iwatsukiella leucotricha* occurs on the trunks and branches of conifers and occasionally on alder trees along exposed, higher elevation coastal ridges in Washington and Oregon.

State Status Comments: This species is considered rare in the United States, and was originally only known from Clatsop County, Oregon. In British Columbia the closest location is found on northern Vancouver Island in the Brooks Peninsula. The Washington state collections are the first for the state, and bring the total number of locations for the United States up to five.

Inventory Needs: The distribution of this species in Washington is probably limited because of the lack of exposed, higher elevation coastal ridges between the Columbia River and Olympic Peninsula. Additional surveys on the Olympic Peninsula may reveal new locations.

Threats and Management Concerns: This species is currently considered a Survey and Manage Category B species under the Northwest Forest Plan (USDA/USDI 2001). This classification carries the need to manage all known sites and conduct strategic surveys on USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management lands. In Oregon this species is ranked S1 (critically imperiled and fewer than five occurrences). Threats to this species include, timber harvest, road and trail maintenance.

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References:

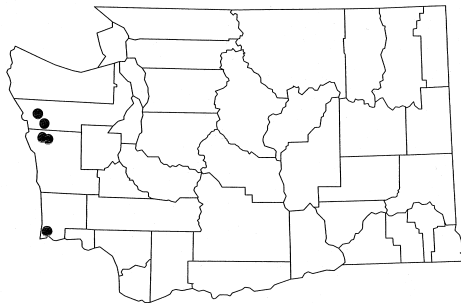
Schofield, W.B., et al. 2002. Bryophytes from Tuxedni Wilderness Area, Alaska. *Journal of the Hattori Botanical Laboratory*. 92:91-123.

USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management. 2001. Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Ammendements to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidlenes. 147 pp. USDA. Forest Service, Portland, OR.



Photo by Martin Hutten

Known distribution of *Iwatsukiella leucotricha* in Washington



● Current (1980+)

○ Historic (older than 1980)

2003 Produced as part of a cooperative project between the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Natural Heritage Program, and the U.S.D.A., Forest Service, Olympic National Forest. The author of these fact sheets is Judy Harpel, Region 6, USFS. Persons needing this information in an alternate format may call (360) 902-1340 or TTY (360) 902-1125.